

February 5, 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Commission Secretary, Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
445 12th Street SW
CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Proceeding 03-16

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to express my support for SBC's entry into Michigan's long distance phone market. The long distance phone market should reflect from the same competition as the local phone market. Reducing long distance phone bills by giving consumers more choices can make a big difference in peoples' lives and on the tight budgets of nonprofit organizations, such as ours at the Council of Michigan Foundations.

People across the state are losing out on valuable savings and choices because there are no incentives for long distance companies to compete. We are paying the price while people in more than a dozen states are enjoying the benefits of full competition. SBC's entry into Michigan's long distance market will force other phone companies to offer competitive packages and prices, just like what has happened in the local phone market.

I hope the Federal Communications Commission will act quickly and recommend that Michigan join the many states already enjoying increased competition. It is time for Michigan to benefit from full telecommunications competition.

Thank you for your company's services as a leading corporate citizen of our state.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Collier
President